Amendments to the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Cross Reference To Related Applications

This application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S.S.N. 08/682,810 filed July 10, 1996 and entitled "Fluorescent Peptides" issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,054,557, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S.S.N. 08/504,856, now abandoned, having the same name and filed July 20, 1995, which are hereby incorporated in their entirety by reference.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring now to Figure 4, a fluoresceinyl-NMC peptide with the amino aid sequence Gly-Asn-His-Trp-Ala-Val-Gly-His-Leu-Met-NH_2 (SEQ ID NO:4) was tested to determine its affinity for NMC receptor sites. The fluoresceinyl-NMC peptide compound absorbs light maximally at 494 nm and features an emission spectrum centered around 518 nm. The compound exhibits comparable, dose-dependent binding to the NMC-binding receptor, bombesin-receptor subtype 1 (BB1), when compared to native bombesin peptides, as determined by displacement of radiolabeled-bombesin peptides bound to receptors located rat cerebral cortex neurons in the brain. The concentrations at which 50% of the binding is inhibited (i.e., the IC50) is 3.2 nM for the fluorescein-labeled compound, as compared to 1.8 nM for the unlabeled bombesin. The IC_{50} is related to the binding constant K_i by the formula $IC_{50} = K_i (1 + F_L/K_d)$, where F_L is the concentration of the free labeled ligand and K_d

is the dissociation constant for the labeled ligand. The K_i for this compound was 3.2 nM for the labeled compound versus 1.9 nM for the unlabeled compound. This demonstrates the high degree of retention of biological activity.--